

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

| | |
|------|----------|
| AREA | FORM NO. |
| | 601 |



City Lexington
Address 307 Wood Street - moved to 289
Historic Name Cutler Farmhouse

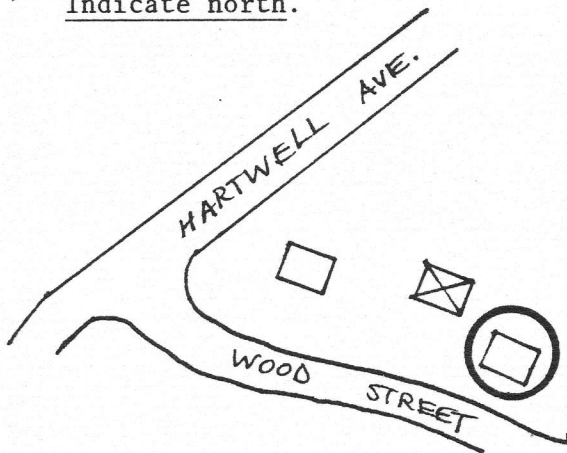
Use: Present residential
Original residential

DESCRIPTION:

Date c. 1762
Source Burgess 1965:84

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.



Style Georgian Second Period Vernacular
Architect _____
Exterior wall fabric clapboard
Outbuildings barn

Major alterations (with dates) two-story ell with one-story ell on east; lean-to extension at rear (before 1898, probably much earlier)
Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage 15.33 A.
Setting On open land across from large scientific lab; near intersection with major street with office parks.

Recorded by Nancy S. Seasholes
Organization Lexington Historical Commission
Date April, 1984

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

This is one of perhaps half-a-dozen Second Period Vernacular houses built in the mid-eighteenth century or earlier which survive in Lexington. It is a fine example of an eighteenth century farmstead and preserves a nineteenth century barn and some of its farm acreage.

Noteworthy Second Period features include the building's profile, the narrowness and placement of the windows with two windows on either end of the facade grouped together, the substantial central chimney, and the cornice molding

(see Continuation Sheet)

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.)

According to the genealogist of the Cutler family, this house was built by Solomon Cutler, who inherited the land, apparently with no buildings, from his father in 1760. The house was presumably built sometime between that date and 1772 when Solomon moved to New Hampshire, for, in 1787 when he sold the property to his brother Thomas, it apparently contained "one dwelling house and barn and other buildings." The property remained in the Cutler family until the mid-nineteenth century: Thomas' son Amos inherited it in 1812 and sold it to his brother Leonard in 1820; Leonard died in 1852 and it was then acquired by Hugh J. Maguire, a farmer. The property is still owned by Maguire descendants (Burgess 1965:84).

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

Burgess, Marjorie Cutler. A Genealogy of the Cutler Family of Lexington, Massachusetts, 1634-1964. Concord, New Hampshire: Evans Printing Company, 1965.

Lexington Historical Society archives, Burr Church collection.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Lexington

Form No:

601

Property Name: 307 Wood Street

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

at the eave. An unusual feature is the off-center placement of the chimney. This implies that the plan of the house is asymmetrical, even though window placement is symmetrical. Period finishes are reported to survive on the interior.

There is a lean-to (non-integral) across the right-hand three bays at the rear of the building and an addition extends from the lean-to to the right of the house. Construction date of these additions appears to be nineteenth century or earlier.

Second Period Vernacular houses similar to this house remaining in Lexington include the Whittemore Muzzey house on Marrett Street, the Joseph Bridge house at 419 Marrett Road, the Smith house at 29 Allen Street, the Merriam Viles house at 37-39 Woburn Street, and the Amos Muzzey house at 42 Forest Street. The high style Second Period buildings in Lexington are well recognized and protected. The Vernacular buildings mentioned above are equally important to Lexington's architectural history, and because of their simplicity their significance has generally escaped notice.

The site of this building is potentially valuable if a zoning change is approved. It is adjacent to Hartwell Avenue which is zoned for commercial use and has been built up with numerous office buildings over the past 20 years. Whatever the future of the site, preservation of the building should be an integral part of the plan. A more thorough study of the building would be useful to both the owner and the town.



Staple to Inventory form at bottom